



3500.015873

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: )  
TETSUYA ITANO ET AL. ) : Examiner: Aung S. Moe  
Application No.: 09/976,096 ) : Group Art Unit: 2685  
Filed: October 15, 2001 ) : Confirmation No.: 9346  
For: IMAGE PICKUP APPARATUS ) : May 30, 2006  
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**Mail Stop RCE**  
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Introductory Comments

In response to the Office Action mailed February 27, 2006, the Examiner is requested to amend the above-identified application as follows. Applicants submit the following amendments and remarks.